

CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR EXPANSION OF CARROLL COUNTY WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET

\$99,000 Grant Will Bring Latest Broadband Technology to Carroll County

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Development Agency, at his urging, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$99,000 to the Carroll County Industrial Development Authority for the purpose of creating of a high-speed wireless Internet network in Carroll County. The establishment of the wireless network will accomplish the dual purpose of improving communications between area first responders and bringing high-speed Internet service to businesses and schools in the County. **"The federal funding being announced today represents a significant step towards delivering high speed Internet service to area businesses, providing substantial growth potential for the economy of Carroll County, while simultaneously improving public safety by enhancing first responder communications,"**

Boucher said.

The federal funds will enable the extension of broadband Internet services from the fiber-optic backbone at the Crossroads Institute in Galax to several other locations in the County through the creation of a high-speed wireless Internet network. The initial deployment of the network will bring high-speed wireless connectivity from Galax to the Twin County Airport, to Hillsville and Sylvatus.

"The access to affordable high-speed Internet is also essential for the purpose of attracting industries seeking locations for expansion, attracting new companies with technology-based jobs, and aiding locally-owned small businesses in expanding operations, " Boucher said.

Wireless high-speed Internet networks hold considerable promise for large rural areas such as Southwest Virginia. Because the units which make up and carry the network communicate with each other wirelessly, the cost that localities must pay to deliver broadband services is greatly reduced. By not having to run wires to connect homes and businesses to the fiber optic backbone, the network can be easily built out by adding addition wireless units as more funds become available according to Boucher.

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